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March 3, 2025
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by: CJZ
Press Release 25-21

DA Investigators and Partnering Agencies Continue Successful Skimming Operations; One Arrested

(Delano) - On March 1, 2025, Investigators from the Kern County District Attorney's Office and California Department of Social Services EBT Fraud and Theft Detection Unit conducted a sting operation targeting individuals using skimming devices and fraudulent EBT cards to conduct fraudulent ATM withdrawals in Kern County.

Investigators were monitoring EBT activity in the Delano area and identified a subject fraudulently withdrawing funds from an ATM in the central Delano area. Investigators immediately responded to the area and arrested 23-year-old Bogdan Boceanu for several felony charges including grand theft, fraudulent use of access card, identity theft, possession of burglary tools, counterfeited transfer of EBT benefits and driving without a valid license. Investigators located and seized 36 cloned EBT cards and cash totaling \$4,030.

Bogdan had been previously identified by DA Investigators on a previous theft of funds investigation and issued a warrant for his arrest for burglary, attempted grand theft, fraudulent possession of a scanning device, and vandalism (SF021771A). Bogdan was booked into the Lerdo Detention Facility on open charges and his outstanding warrant.

The Department of Social Services Skims and Analysis report shows that fraud has decreased significantly in Kern County since the District Attorney's efforts in combating this crime through its operations. Through these operations, fraud has decreased from approximately \$386,561.50 in October of



2024 down to \$159,008.50 in February 2025. These totals represent benefits that were both stolen and cashed out within the county.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; “Protecting a resource that is vital to many families in our community remains a top priority for our office. We will continue to relentlessly pursue this mission and send a clear message to anyone attempting to exploit the system.”

The Kern County Department of Human Services suggests the following precautions to keep your card safe:

- Report a theft to DHS [in person](#), online through users’ [BenefitsCal.com](#) account, or through the EBT helpline at 877-328-9677. There are several factors that are taken into consideration, based on the regulations regarding whether the replacement can be made, but if eligible, a replacement card will be issued to the customer within 10 business days. DHS is working through every request as expeditiously as possible.
- Download and use the ebtEDGE Mobile Application as a method to better manage benefits and reset your pin number frequently.

